

AN ORDINANCE BY *"Able" Mable Thomas* *[Signature]*
 COUNCILMEMBERS "ABLE" MABLE THOMAS AND MICHAEL JULIAN
 BOND *[Signature]* *CT. Martin Thompson*

**AN ORDINANCE TO RENAME ASHBY STREET, NW
 FROM MARIETTA STREET TO WHITE STREET
 JOSEPH E. LOWERY BOULEVARD; TO WAIVE
 SECTION 2-2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF
 THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER
 PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the street currently known as Ashby Street is within the corporate boundaries of the city of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Ashby Street currently bears the name of Turner Ashby who served the Confederate Army as a Lt. Colonel in the Virginia Calvary, **and had no relationship with the city of Atlanta, GA.;** and

WHEREAS, Reverend Joseph E. Lowery has made significant contributions in helping Atlanta become a city so busy serving the best interests of all its citizens that it deserves the title " a city too busy to hate"; and

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery is one of the founders of the Atlanta-based Southern Christian Leadership Conference along with Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph David Abernathy and others, and served the organization as Vice President from 1957-67; Chairman of the Board from 1967-77; and as President and Chief Executive Officer from 1977 to January 15, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery has spent most of his (nearly) 80 years as an advocate for human rights and justice, beginning as head of the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, and working untiringly for desegregation, justice and voting rights in Alabama, Tennessee and for last 33 years in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery has endured personal suffering fighting for the causes of justice and had his property seized by Alabama court judgments in the now historic landmark case on libel: Sullivan vs New York Times et Abernathy, Lowery, Shuttlesworth and Seay; and

WHEREAS, In the 21 years Joseph E. Lowery served as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference he was recognized as one of the nation's strongest and most articulate advocates. He fought for the passage and the extension of the Voting Rights Act (until 2007), negotiated covenants with major corporations for employment advances and contracts with minority owned companies; was one of the first five persons arrested in the Free South

Africa movement at the South African embassy in the nation's capital; led boycotts against companies doing business with South Africa across the nation; co-chaired the Nelson Mandela visit to Atlanta following his release from prison and was a keynote speaker at an African Renaissance farewell dinner for Mandela in Durban, So. Africa; initiated the first education program about HIV-AIDS by a national black advocacy group through SCLC/WOMEN in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery's profound commitment to justice and his ability to articulate the hopes and dreams of his people, earned him an invitation from the head of the FBI to lead a seminar for the top 50 officials of the FBI on the "Image of the FBI in the Black Community"; and, a Federal judge, ordered Ku Klux Klansmen convicted of assault on Dr. Lowery and marchers in Decatur, Ala in 1979 to attend a human relations workshop led by Rev. Lowery; and.

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery has led delegations to the Middle East and to Central America on Peace Missions; helped dedicate a school and children's hospital to honor Dr. King in **East** Germany shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall; fought against the oppression of the "least of these" and was arrested in Atlanta witnessing for the rights of sanitation workers; helped to calm the community with his "let us turn To each other and not On each other" theme during the "missing and murdered children's crisis; provided offices for the mothers at SCLC and helped establish a fund for them with Citizens Trust Bank; and

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery conducted "bank-ins" in this nation which resulted in vast increases in deposits in black owned banks including Citizens Trust and Mutual Federal in Atlanta; served as pastor of two community-oriented servant congregations-Central and Cascade United Methodist churches in Atlanta and led in the construction of a 240 unit housing development for low and moderate income families-Central Methodist Gardens; and

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery served the Atlanta community for almost 25 years as a member of the Board of Directors of MARTA (Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) and as chairman in 1995, 1996 (during the Olympics) and 1997 where he was instrumental in appropriating millions of dollars in contracts with minority owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, even since his retirement from the pastorate in 1992, and from the presidency of SCLC in 1998, he has continued his advocacy by helping black farmers secure a Federal court consent decree approximating \$2 billion in reparations for damage by discriminatory policies and practices of the Department of Agriculture; he has also assisted black auto dealers seeking redress from discriminatory practices of auto manufacturers, and black promoters fighting for the right to engage in their trade without exclusion and discrimination with a \$700 million lawsuit against talent agencies; and

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery is one of the founders, and is now serving his third term as Chairman of the Black Leadership Forum, a consortium of major national advocacy organizations-, is convenor of the Ga. Coalition for the Peoples Agenda working for political and economic empowerment, election reform, criminal justice system reform particularly for indigent defense, a moratorium on the death penalty and alternative sentencing; and

WHEREAS, the renaming of Ashby Street to honor a freedom fighter, a great humanitarian who has been called the "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement" by the NAACP at its 1997 convention, who Ebony magazine called "the consummate voice of biblical social relevancy, a focused voice, speaking truth to power" when he was named one of America's 15 greatest black preachers; and

WHEREAS, this would complete the cycle of honor to three Atlanta-based civil rights giants! The renamed Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. will join together (intersect) Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, and Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. It will also pass contiguously to the citadel of African American education the Atlanta University complex where the **Joseph E. Lowery Institute for Justice and Human Rights will be** housed; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Joseph E. Lowery will be 80 years "young" on October 6, 2001.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA as follows:

SECTION 1: That Ashby Street is renamed JOSEPH E. LOWERY BOULEVARD from Marietta Street to White Street

SECTION 2: That Section 2.2 is hereby waived to allow the street name change to take place

SECTION 3: That the name change be effective upon the approval of Council and the Mayor

SECTION 4: That the appropriate city agencies, including but not limited to the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Planning, and the Clerk of Council, be directed to take such steps as are necessary to have the name changed on street signs, maps, and other official documents and markers.

01-0-1310

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

AN ORDINANCE BY COUNCILMEMBERS "ABLE" MABLE

THOMAS AND MICHAEL JULIAN BOND

AN ORDINANCE TO RENAME ASHBY STREET, NW FROM MARIETTA STREET TO WHITE STREET JOSEPH E. LOWERY BOULEVARD; TO WAIVE SECTION 2-2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

- ☐ CONSENT REFER
- ☐ REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ☐ ADVERTISE & REFER
- ☐ 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- ☒ PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

First Reading

Committee _____
Date _____
Chair _____
Referred to _____

Committee

Date

Chair

Action:

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other:

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action:

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other:

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action:

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other:

Members

Committee

Date

Chair

Action:

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other:

Members

Refer To

Refer To

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION

- ☐ 2nd ☐ 1st & 2nd ☐ 3rd
- Readings
- ☐ Consent ☐ V Vote ☐ RC Vote

CERTIFIED

MAYOR'S ACTION